

New Leaders Bring Invaluable Skills to the Bar

by Bernard J. DiMuro, 2002–2003 VSB President

This is my last chance to address the bar in the president's page because during the annual meeting, on June 20, 2003, Jeannie Dahnk took the oath of office and became the 65th president of the Virginia State Bar. I have become the immediate past president, and David Bobzien became the president-elect. Mike Glasser of Norfolk is now a past president and will always be remembered for his many contributions to the bar and his dedication to its membership. (As a side note, who knows whether history will repeat itself: Joe Condo, the 2000–2001 bar president, has rejoined the Virginia State Bar Council as a representative from Fairfax.)

These new leaders are poised to address the future needs of the bar's constituency and they are capable of handling any task or issue. Jeannie Dahnk has been actively involved in bar activities during my year as president; she joined me on my travels throughout the state and has gotten to know bar members and has learned about their concerns and the issues they hope to have addressed. She also has spoken with legislators and judges, statewide, to obtain their perspectives on issues facing the bar and the judiciary. Shortly after he learned he would be the president-elect in March of this year, David Bobzien enthusiastically joined Jeannie and me in our long-range planning efforts. David, who currently serves as the county attorney for Fairfax, will bring invaluable skills to the work of the bar.

All of us remain ready and willing to assist the membership. We are determined to tackle the needs of the bar and to continue to educate the public and the legislature about the many contributions the bar and its members have made to the communities in which we live and our willingness to tackle any problem. I have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure and have benefitted greatly from this experience, which I will never forget. Without question, the highlight of my year was traveling across the commonwealth



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and meeting members of the local and statewide voluntary bar associations. As I am fond of saying, Virginia lawyers give back to their communities in many ways and volunteer tens of thousands of hours each year to civic, charitable and pro bono activities. These activities often go without mention, and I have made every effort to let people know what we do individually, and as a profession, for the betterment of the residents of Virginia. Toward that end, the Virginia State Bar has surveyed the local and statewide bars and collected scores of examples of the countless civic and charitable contributions of attorneys across the state. These examples have been summarized in a publication entitled "Legally Informed" that we hope to have published and distributed throughout the state. Many thanks to our publications department—Rod Coggin, the director of publications, as well as Caryn Persinger, Cheryl Pavkov, Jennifer Sparger and Victoria Lewkow. Also, my thanks to Mary Yancey Spencer, our deputy executive director, who supervises the department, and Maureen Petrini, director of Access to Legal Services, for their contributions to this project.

Other highlights of last year for me include speaking to the students of the Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, forging a new relationship with the Supreme Court, addressing the issue of judicial independence and authorizing additional funding for the fine work of Lawyers Helping Lawyers.

Finally, let me thank the entire staff of the Virginia State Bar without whom our work would not get done. Thanks to the senior staff: Tom Edmonds, executive director; Mary Yancey Spencer, deputy executive director; Barbara Williams, bar counsel; Bet Keller, assistant executive director for bar services; and Susan Busch, assistant executive director for administration. There are so many wonderful people on the bar staff that I hesitate to mention a few at the risk of offending the others.

Before I leave you, let me tell you once again how proud I am of Virginia lawyers. Virginia lawyers epitomize the words of R. Sargent Shriver who, in 1982 said, "I, as a lawyer, believe that some part of my money, time, thoughts and energy belongs—I don't just give it, it belongs to others, not just to me."

Finally, I want to highlight the following volunteer accomplishments:

Chan Park of the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center



Prompted in part by the 1996 Immigration Law, current Akin Gump associate, Chan Park, co-founded the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC) in 1997, during his final year of law school, to address the language and cultural barriers that have made accessing legal service programs difficult for Asian-American immigrants.

APALRC has grown from a small group of volunteer law students and lawyers with a budget of \$5,000 in 1997, to a full time staff of four and almost 40 volunteers with an operating budget of \$360,000. The Legal Referral Program is the flagship program of APALRC. The program leverages APALRC's partnerships with Legal Services of Northern Virginia and the Potomac Legal Aid Society by providing intake translation for Asian-American immigrants and then referring them to a legal services organization.

Akin Gump, which opened an office in Tysons Corner several years ago, offers ongoing support to APALRC.

Special Olympics Virginia



More than 40 Virginia attorneys helped a nine-year-old athlete from Petersburg travel to Ireland for the 11th Special Olympics World Summer Games. They donated more than \$3,000 through the "Lawyers-Adopt-An-Athlete" project to help Desiree Howard participate in the track & field competition that

began in Dublin, Ireland, on June 29. This was the first time the World Games were held outside the United States.

Said Julie McClellan, former president of the VSB Young Lawyers Conference, "I thought that the 'Lawyers-Adopt-An-Athlete' project could be a way for Virginia's lawyers to help support Special

Olympics Virginia and the athletes that SOVA sent to Ireland. Desiree had a wonderful experience, and I'm proud that the lawyers of Virginia could sponsor her."

Special Olympics Virginia (SOVA) is the Virginia Chapter of Special Olympics Incorporated, a nonprofit, year-round international program of sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with mental disabilities. SOVA hosts more than 2,400 games, meets and tournaments for more than 14,000 mentally disabled children and adults from Virginia, providing them the opportunity to participate in 19 events, including basketball, gymnastics, powerlifting, softball, swimming, tennis and track & field. These events are offered at no cost to the athletes. (A recent audit of the organization showed that more than 88 cents of every dollar contributed is spent on athletics.)

Rick Jeffrey, president of SOVA, said, "This was an opportunity of a lifetime for Desiree. She is an outstanding athlete—who was not overwhelmed by the challenge."

Virginia attorneys who served on the SOVA board of directors include Ben DiMuro, Steven Goodwin, Sharon Goodwyn, Thomas Klein (a former SOVA president), Dan Seigel (also a former SOVA president), Todd Leeson, Julie McClellan and S. Randall Raseyer.

Attorneys who donated toward Desiree's trip include: David Baugh, Greg Bishop, Jennifer Borum, Judy Lin Bristow, Andrea Bridgeman, Jackie Epps, Shawn Copeland, Maya Eckstein, Jeff Edwards, Lori Elliott, Chris Floyd, Bill Ho Gonzales, Janice Housey, Brian Jackson, Kathleen and Roger Kronau, Eileen Johnson, Nnika Johnson, Lorri Kline, Chris Harris Lipford, Tom Lisk, Charles Lobsenz, Andrea Long, Jennifer McClellan, Julie McClellan, Dana McDaniel, O'Kelly McWilliams III, Michelle Pretlow, Katrina Randolph, Adam Resnick, Angela Roberts, David Rosenfield, Steve Rosenthal, Savalle Sims, Rob Spicer, Scott Street, Alex Taylor, Jimmy Robinson and Dan Siegel.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Virginia Special Olympics at (804) 346-5544 or info@specialolympics.org.

At press time it was learned that Ms. Howard received a 4th place ribbon in the 50M run in the World Games competition and a gold medal (1st place) in the 100M run.

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B. Mark and Barbara Fried



Barbara and Mark Fried with their son Jon—a Special Olympics tennis champion.

As long-time land-use attorneys and developers, B. Mark and Barbara Fried's record of civic involvement attests to their commitment to the communities in which they live and build. In addition to serving on numerous nonprofit boards and foundations,

they continue to remain actively involved in Innisfree Village, a residential community with mentally disabled people that they helped to establish in 1971. Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains

on 580 acres, Innisfree serves as an international model as a sustainable life-sharing community. Residents in the rural village outside of Charlottesville gain pride and competence through their daily work—baking bread, weaving blankets on the loom, creating wooden cutting boards, growing organic vegetables and working in the downtown Charlottesville shop that sells their crafts. Next door to Innisfree, Mark and Barbara's farm houses Charlottesville Area Riding Therapy (CART), a program with disabled children and adults, certified by North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA).

Innisfree and CART encourage volunteers. For more information or for an application to volunteer, please contact: Innisfree at (434) 823-5400 or innisfreevillage@prodigy.net (www.geocities.com/mball11/InnisfreeVillageMB3.htm); contact CART at (434) 823-6323 or cart@cartcrozet.org.

Alert to Lawyers Insured by American National Lawyers Insurance Reciprocal (ANLIR)

As many lawyers now know, the American National Lawyers Insurance Reciprocal (ANLIR) is in receivership in Tennessee, the place of ANLIR's domicile. Its reinsurer, Reciprocal of America (ROA), is also in receivership in Virginia. As a result of these events, defense costs and claims are not being paid by ANLIR. Renewal premiums paid by subscribers prior to initiation of the receiverships are in the hands of the receiver. ANLIR policyholders are being advised by the bar's risk manager to seek replacement coverage with another carrier in light of the fact that effective coverage under their present policies is unlikely in the foreseeable future.

Lawyers registered with the bar as settlement agents under the Consumer Real Estate Settlement Protection Act (CRESPA) must certify that they have in full force and effect: "A lawyers' professional liability insurance policy issued by a company authorized to write such insurance in Virginia providing first dollar coverage and limits of at least \$250,000 per claim . . ." They must also certify that such coverage "will be maintained in full force and effect throughout the time the attorney settlement agent acts, offers or intends to act in that capacity."

Given that ANLIR is no longer authorized to issue policies in Virginia and is incapable of presently providing the coverage required under the Act, lawyers serving as CRESPA registered settlement agents, to remain in compliance with the Act, must obtain professional liability insurance from another company authorized to write such insurance in Virginia.

Similarly, ANLIR-insured lawyers who certified on their annual dues statement in 2002 that they were "currently covered by a professional liability insurance policy" must also seek replacement coverage from another carrier authorized to write such insurance in Virginia, or, alternatively, check the "No" box when filling out their 2003 annual dues statement liability insurance certification, indicating that they do not currently have liability insurance.

If you have any questions concerning the ANLIR or ROA receiverships or need further information, please visit the Virginia State Bar's Web site at <http://www.vsb.org/malpractice/index.html>.